

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claims:**

1       Claim 1 (original): A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel for use in slab gel  
2       electrophoresis, said pre-cast gel comprising:  
3               a pair of chemically inert, transparent plates with inner surfaces coated with a  
4               nonionic amphiphilic polymer; and  
5               a polyacrylamide gel cast between said plates.

1       Claim 2 (original): A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 1 in  
2       which said nonionic amphiphilic polymer is polyvinyl alcohol.

1       Claim 3 (original): A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 1 in  
2       which said nonionic amphiphilic polymer is polyethylene glycol.

1       Claim 4 (original): A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 1 in  
2       which said plates are glass.

1       Claim 5 (original): A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 1 in  
2       which said plates are plastic.

1       Claim 6 (original): A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 1 in  
2       which said plates are polystyrene-acrylonitrile blend.

1       Claim 7 (currently amended): A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with  
2       claim 1 further comprising a coating of polyvinylidene chloride between each said plate and said  
3       coating of nonionic amphiphilic polymer.